

Wycombe reach for the stars!

By **MIKE ALLEN** Wycombe 7,
Denmark Under 21s 4

THE Danish under 21 players not picked for their side's match at Loakes Park walked onto the pitch beforehand wearing 'moon boots'.

They must have known something then that the rest of us were soon to find out. For if it's goals you want to see at football matches then the game on Thursday evening was out of this world.

After one or two technical hitches in the Wycombe defence where Paul Birdseye lost the ball, and then made a well timed tackle inside the area, Wycombe lifted off.

And what an experience it was. They rocketed into a 6-0 lead, then warning lights began to flash as the young Danish side brought the score back to 6-4, before the seventh and final stage of the Wycombe goalmachine was fired.

Launch

The Danish engines were the first to fire and Gary Lester was forced to make a brilliant reflex save when two players crept into the area, unmarked by Phil Bycroft and Birdseye, playing in the middle of the defence for the injured Bob Davies.

But the Wanderers were the first away from the launching pad when Birdseye tapped the ball over the line from a yard. For the next 24 minutes it was all systems go as Wycombe reached for the sky.

Ken Wilson spun the ball in off the legs of goalkeeper Claus Christiansen, and then Kennedy beat two players in the box before slipping the ball home. Gary Toll made it 4-0 before Kennedy completed the scoring in the first

stage of the match when he put home Wilson's cross at the near post.

After a talk with Mission Control at half time Chris Way, Mick Holifield, Simon Dexter and Andy Hunt were sent on in place of Gary Lester, Kennedy, Birdseye and Scott.

Danger

Jimmy Jacobs struck a sixth goal with a shot from 18 yards that travelled by a meteorite into the back of the net.

Then the Danish side began to fire, and by the 68th minute Wycombe's safe journey through the match looked in surprise danger as the aliens brought Wycombe back to earth and the score back to 6-4.

First, substitute Stig Andersen, then Nigel Therkelsen, Steen Hansen and finally Jens Busk, who played for Denmark against England at Wembley in the European Championship qualifying match, beat Chris Way.

But just as the Danes turned on full throttle Toll hit Wycombe's seventh from a Holifield's cross to complete the inter-galactic contest.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester (sub C. Way 45 mins), J. Jacobs, G. Borg, P. Bycroft, P. Birdseye (sub S. Dexter 45 mins), B. Dell, P. West, H. Kennedy (sub M. Holifield 45 mins), G. Toll, T. Scott (sub A. Hunt 45 mins), K. Wilson.

DENMARK UNDER 21: C. Christiansen, T. Olczyk, L. Christiansen, S. Hansen, J. Busk, A. Nedergaard, J. Helt (sub M. Johansen 68 mins), N. Therkelsen, M. Donierup, J. Olsen, Subs: M. Lyng, E. Rasnaussen, J. Jensen (not used).

Referee: Mr A. Williams.

Half-time 5-0. Scorers — Wycombe: Birdseye (12 mins), Wilson (14), Kennedy (15.36), Toll (26.75), Jacobs (63). **Denmark under 21:** Andersen (58), Therkelsen (62), Hansen (65), Busk (68). **Attendance:** 210.

IT is hardly surprising that **SUTTON UNITED** manager Barrie Williams keeps faith with the team that thrashed Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Trophy for this Saturday's Berger Isthmian League Premier Division trip to Hayes (3).

Fifth-place United must regard anything less than three points as a failure as they must string together several wins now if they are to overhaul leaders Slough who have games in hand on them. But Sutton have still to play Slough twice — so anything could still happen.

United won the first league clash 4-0 at Gander Green Lane in September. Hayes, a mid-

TOP TRIO

UNITED had three players in the FA XI to meet the AFA at Imber Court last night (Wednesday). They were defenders Tony Rains and Steve Rogers and forward Micky Joyce.

table side, won 3-0 at Leatherhead on Saturday and with just four draws from their first 30 league matches are clearly a side who either win or lose.

Williams' only doubt is over the substitute's spot which will either be filled by Micky Stephens or, if he is given a run out with the reserves, Phil Brindle or Keith Jones will be 12th man.

Sutton received reward for their excellent Trophy result with a home tie against Bedford Town in the third round on February 21, a draw which Williams called "smashing."

"Of course, it's wrong to say there are any weak sides in this competition, but we appear to have got one of the easier clubs and it's good to see the big guns drawn against each other. We're just delighted to get a home draw."

But Bedford, who are placed third in the Southern League Midland Division and with games in hand have an excellent chance of winning the division title and have the third best record in the Trophy.

They reached the semi-final in 1975 and have reached the quarter-finals four times. The

two sides have never met before.

Sutton's boss was hoping to clinch the free transfer this week of Wycombe Wanderers' Tony Price. The 25 year old left winger has been unable to hold down a regular first team place at Loakes Park since he was sent off in an FA Cup tie earlier this season.

He has been in and out of the Wycombe team since joining them seven years ago. He won a Blue at Oxford University where he gained a degree, has represented England amateur under-18s and had a short spell with Leicester City Reserves.

The 5ft 9in winger, who has just secured a job in South London, watched Saturday's clash at Gander Green Lane.

Price would enhance United's first team squad and if he gets a first team chance might form an effective foil to exciting young teenage winger Ray Sunnucks on the other flank who is slowly recapturing the form which attracted a host of Football League scouts.

Only problem for United is that Price will be unavailable for a week this month as he is going on a seminar.

CARSHALTON ATHLETIC continue their

escapology act in the Premier Division without the services of suspended midfielder Gavin Fraser when they face Wycombe Wanderers at Colston Avenue on Saturday (3.00).

Fraser, a signing from Sutton, began a 28-day suspension on Monday after being sent off twice this season. Tommy Sims is likely to replace him at midfield as he is one of the most versatile players in the side.

Said Robins manager Tony Elkins-Green: "Sims is one of the most useful players in the team as he can play almost anywhere. I think he will settle down rather well in midfield."

Barring injuries against Boothe (yesterday), Elkins-Green expects to name this line-up against Wycombe: Lightfoot, Maurice, Clarke, Bangs, Pinchen, Sims, Mason, Bartley, Dennis, Ives, Greenhalgh.